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Melodrama for Declamation with Piano

How Beautiful were once the Roses

(Wie waren einst so schön, so frisch die Rosen)

BY

A. ARENSKY

Op. 68, No. 1

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HOW BEAUTIFUL WERE ONCE THE ROSES

(WIE WAREN EINST SO SCHÖN, SO FRISCH DIE ROSEN)

MELODRAMA FOR DECLAMATION WITH PIANO

Poem in prose by I.S. TURGENEFF
 German version by L. ESBEER
 English version by NICHOLAS DOUTY

A. ARENSKY
 Op. 68, No 1

Somehow, somewhere, long, long ago, I read a poem.
Irgendwo, irgendwann, vor langer, langer Zeit habe ich ein Gedicht gelesen.

PIANO

Soon it passed out of my memory—
Es wurde bald wieder von mir vergessen

and now only the first line remains:
und nur die erste Zeile blieb in meinen Gedächtnisse haften:

“How beautiful,
„Wie waren einst

how fresh were once the roses.”
so schön, so frisch die Rosen!“

Allegretto

'Tis winter now,
Jetzt ist's Winter,

my shutters are frozen tight;
der Frost hat die Fensterscheiben be-
schlagen,

only one light burns
im dunkeln Zimmer brennt

in the darkened room.
ein einziges Licht.

As I sit, withdrawn into the corner, there rings through my brain:
Ich sitze in einen Winkel zurückgezogen da, und in Gedanken klingt mir's in einem fort:

"How beautiful,
„Wie waren einst

how fresh were once
so schön, so frisch die

the roses."
Rosen!"

And I fancy myself before the low-built windows of a Russian country house.
Und ich sehe mich selbst vor den niedrigen Fenster eines russischen Landhauses.

Softly the summer twilight falls, and fades into night.
Der Sommerabend schwindet leise hin und verwandelt sich in Nacht.

Andante

The perfume of mignonette and of linden flowers
is wafted to me by the gentle breeze;—
In lauen Lüften duftet es nach Reseda und Lindenblüthe;—

and at the window,
und im Fenster, auf die

leaning her head upon her outstretched hands, sits a maiden
ausgestreckte Hand gestützt und den Kopf zur Schulter geneigt, sitzt ein Mädchen

looking peacefully and silently toward the sky,
und blickt lautlos und unverwandt gen Himmel,

as if awaiting the coming
gleichsam das Erscheinen der er-

of the first star.
sten Sterne erwartend.

How true and constant are her dreaming eyes,
Wie treuherzig begeistert sind die sinnenden Augen,

how virginal her questioning half-opened lips!
wie rührend unschuldig die fragend geöffneten Lippen!

How quietly
Wie gleichmässig

moves her breast, so girlish and yet so womanly!
 athmet die noch nicht völlig erblühte, noch durch nichts in Wallung versetzte Brust,

How pure and tender is her youthful gaze—
 wie rein und zart sind die Züge des jugendlichen Antlitzes—

Poco più mosso

I dare not speak to her, though she is very dear to me,
 Ich wage nicht es anzusprechen, jedoch wie theuer ist es mir,

and quickly beats my heart!
 und heftig schlägt mein Herz!

"How beauti-
 „Wie waren

Allegretto

ful,
 einst

how sweet were once the roses."
 so schön, so frisch die Rosen!"

Other pictures, too, come into my mind—
Es erstehen vor mir andere Gestalten:

Allegro

I hear the happy sounds
Vernehmlich wird der heitere Lärm länd-

of a country home. Two
lichen Familien - lebens. Zwei

little blond girls, tenderly embracing each other, look
blonde Köpfchen, an einander geschmiegt, schauen mich

at me gayly with bright little eyes;
lebhaft mit ihren hellen Äuglein an;

their cheeks, red as ap - ples
die rothen Bäckchen

be -

tremble with
ben vor

suppressed
verhaltenem

laughter;
Lachen;

their little hands are joined in a caress and their youthful, friendly voices echo each other
die Hände sind liebkosend verschlungen, einander in die Rede fallend schallen die jungen

in ceaseless talk.
freundlichen Stimmen;

Meno mosso

A little farther in the back - ground
und ein wenig weiter, im Hintergrunde eines behaglichen Zimmers

other hands,
streifen andere, ebenfalls junge Hände,

*) *Tempo di Valse* youthful and insecure, stray carelessly
mit verworrenen Fingern über

over the keyboard of an old piano, and a waltz of Lanner
die Tasten eines alten Piani-nos, und ein Lannerscher Walzer

makes itself heard, mingling with the noise of the patriarchal samovar.
vermag das Brummen der patriarchalischen Theemaschine nicht zu übertönen.

Allegretto "How beautiful, how sweet were once the roses."
„Wie waren einst“ so schön, so frisch die Rosen!"

The candle flickers and goes out— Who coughs there, as if racked with fever
Die Kerze brennt trübe und verlischt— Wer ist's, der dort so heiser und dumpf

*) The melody is that of one of Lanner's waltzes.

and pain? 'Tis my old dog, my only companion who lies at my feet just
hustet? Zusammengerollt krümmt sich mir zu Füßen, im Schläfe auffahrend, ein alter Hund, mein

pp

waking from sleep! I shudder with the cold— And all of these
einziger Geführtel!— Mich schaudert— Ich friere— Und alle sind sie längst

dim.

are dead, long, long dead.
schon todt, längst schon todt.

"How beautiful,
„Wie waren einst

how fresh were once
so schön, so frisch

Allegretto
pp
ppp
poco rit.

the roses."
die Rosen!"

Poco più mosso

a tempo
p

f
p
pp
pppp



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